

THE LITTLE RED HEN

The Little Red Hen

by Paul Galdone (Clarion)

Themes: Animals/Work/preserverance

Grade Level: Pre K-1

Running Time: 8 minutes, iconographic

Summary

The Little Red Hen is the story of a hen who makes her home with a very lazy cat, dog, and mouse. When the hard-working hen discovers grains of wheat in the garden, she asks her housemates to help her plant and tend the wheat. When they refuse, she does the chores herself.

The hen asks the others to help her bring the wheat to the mill to be ground into flour and to bake a cake from the flour. When her lazy friends refuse once again, the hen not only does all the work herself, but enjoys the cake by herself, too.

Objectives

- Children will explore the value of hard work and perseverance
- Children will investigate the process involved in making breads/cakes from grains of wheat
- Children will explore the many different kinds of chores involved in caring for a home

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book *The Little Red Hen* with children

Then ask:

Why were the hen's friends willing to help her at the end of the story?

Talk with children about the kinds of chores they perform at home. Ask: What chores do your other family members do? What other kinds of things need to be done around the house? How would it feel to do all the chores by yourself? What kinds of things can you think of to make chores more fun?

Talk with children about the different steps in making a cake. Begin with the process of growing wheat, harvesting it, grinding the wheat into flour, etc. If possible, share photographs of this process with children. Later, see if children can arrange the photos in the appropriate order.

After Viewing Activities

Have children dramatize the story of *The Little Red Hen*. Supply props such as a broom, rake, watering can, straws, sticks to represent stalks of wheat, baking pan, etc. that children can use in their dramatizations. Encourage children to think about what a house that belonged to a hen, dog, cat, and mouse might look like. Have children paint the interior of the house on a large sheet of kraft paper. Use the painting as a backdrop for children's dramatizations.

Involve each child in the class in the baking of this delicious, nutritious whole wheat bread.

You will need:

- 1 pkg. dry yeast
- 2 cups warm water
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/3 cup honey
- 6 cups whole wheat flour
- shortening
- 1/4 cup plus 1 tbs. vegetable oil

Dissolve yeast in 1 cup water. Mix remaining water, honey, salt, and oil. Add to yeast. Add flour gradually, beating after each addition. Knead on floured surface about ten minutes. Place dough in greased bowl, cover with damp towel and let rise approximately one hour until double in size. Punch down and divide into two portions. Cover and let rise another hour. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes.

Explore the qualities of the hen in the story. Then ask: What do we know about the hen? How do you think the hen felt about the work she was doing? How was the hen awarded for her efforts at the end of the story? What other things do you think the hen might be good at? What might the hen not be very good at? If you were living with the hen, what kinds of things would you want to say to her?

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